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TRANSFORMERS
THE WAR WITHIN

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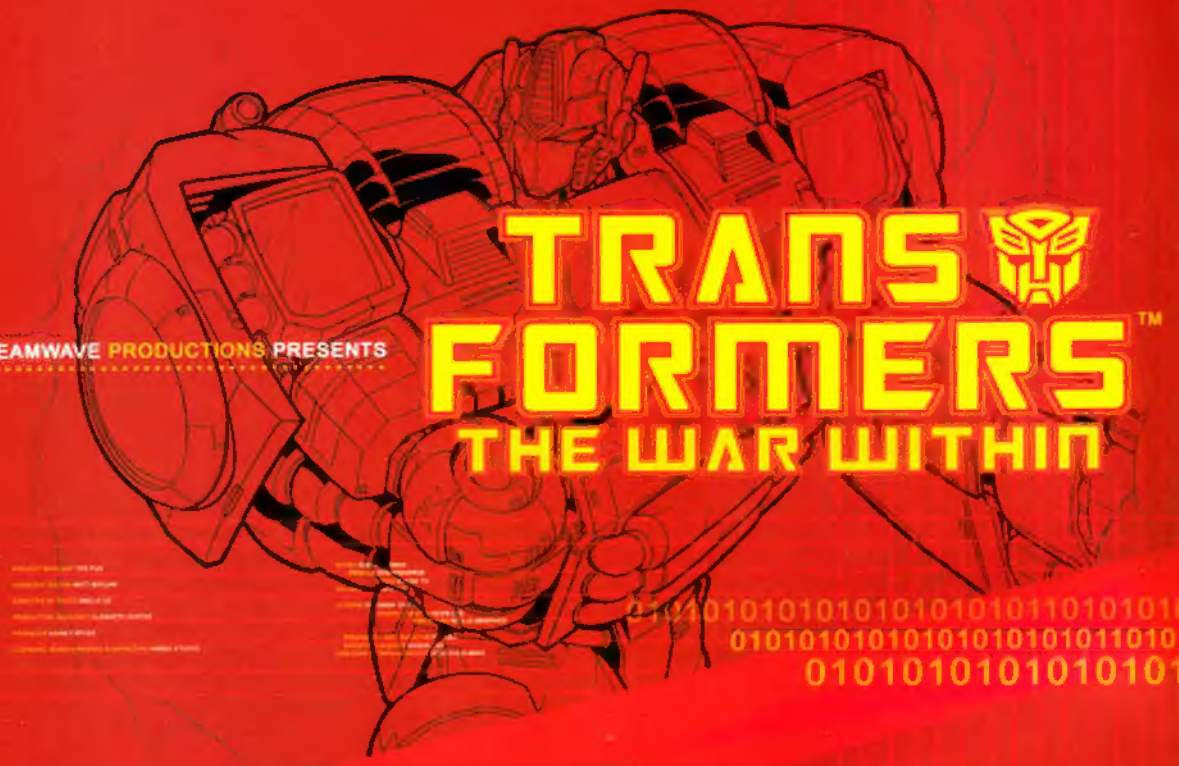

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TRANSFORMERS™
THE WAR WITHIN

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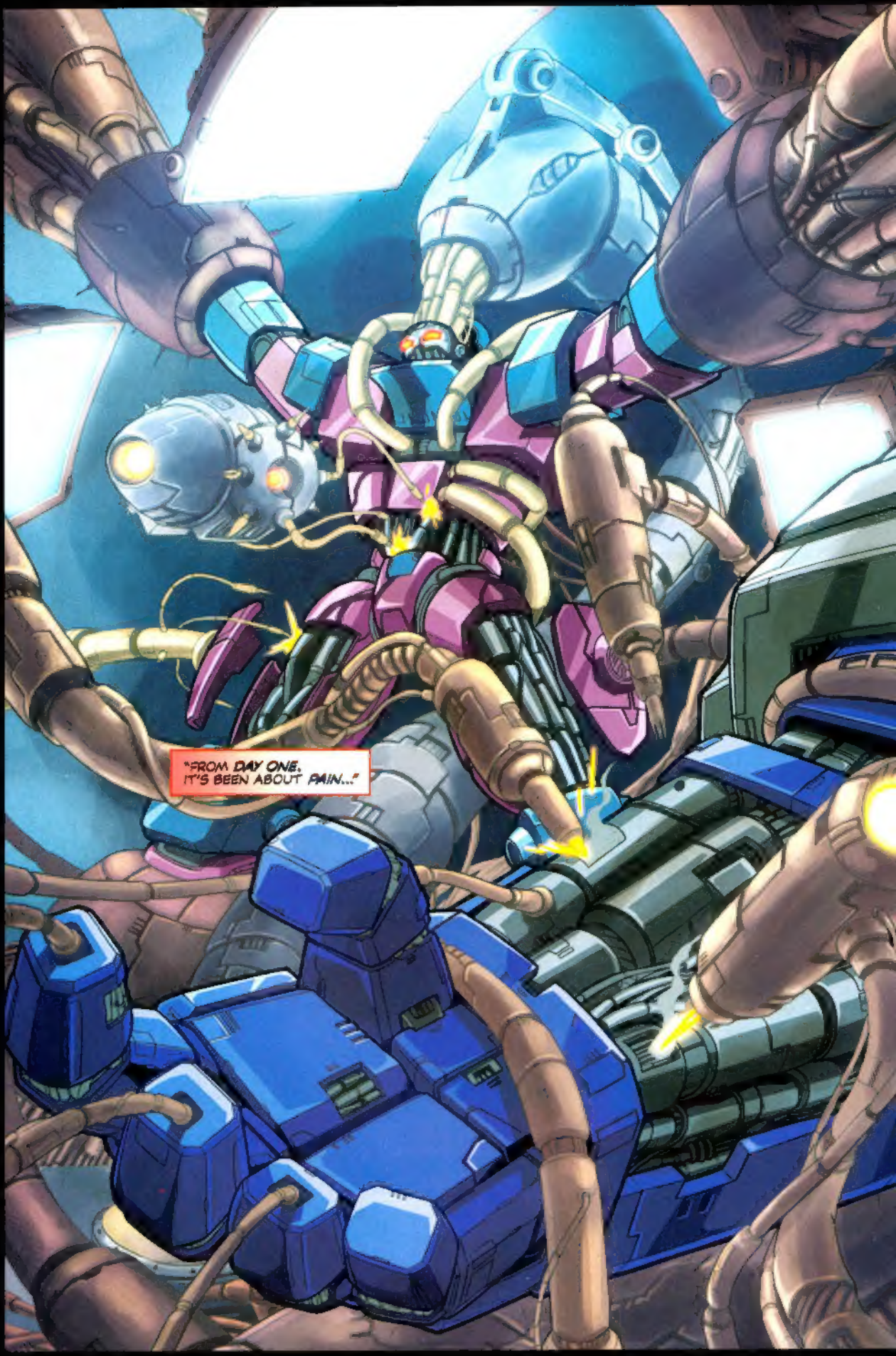

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CYBERTRON, ORBITAL TORUS STATE: PROTIHEX.

A.K.A. SECTOR SIX-ZERO.

NOT INSURGENCE, NOT CONQUEST, NOT TERROR. JUST PAIN.

IT'S MEGATRON'S WAY OF CONTROLLING US. THE ARENA, THE FORGE, THE BRANDING PIT... WE'VE BEEN GRADUALLY CONDITIONED, TEMPERED. WE INFLICT PAIN, WE TAKE IT. NO QUESTIONS. IT'S WHAT IT IS TO BE A DECEPTICON.

LIKE NOW. THE THREE OF US, DEEP IN AUTOBOT TERRITORY, WITH ORDERS TO SECURE A HEAVILY FORTIFIED COMMAND POST.

IT WAS AN EXERCISE IN PAIN MANAGEMENT FROM THE GET-GO! AM I RIGHT, SKYWARP?

STARSCREAM...

...WILL YOU SHUT UP!

WE FAILED BECAUSE YOU TOLD GRIMLOCK EXACTLY WHERE WE WERE GOING AND WHAT WE WERE DOING!

YOU COULDN'T RESIST BAITING HIM. COULDN'T JUST GET THE JOB DONE QUICKLY AND CLEANLY.

IF I HADN'T "WARPED" US OUT OF THERE, WE'D ALL BE TINY BITS OF WAR FLOTSAM.

C'MON, THUNDERCRACKER...

LET'S GET BACK TO KOLKULAR. BEFORE THIS LOSER DRAGS US DOWN WITH HIM.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK, STARSCREAM?

I THINK MAYBE YOU'VE GROWN A LITTLE TOO FOND OF THE PAIN!

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BELOW:
REPORT.
THE PRIME STILL FUNCTIONS, LORD MEGATRON. WE ARE PURSUING.
MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE EXPLICIT. DO NOT TOY WITH HIM.
UNDERSTAND THIS, SOUNDWAVE. HERE, NOW, WE STAND POISED, ON THE BRINK OF TOTAL VICTORY. ONE SMALL MIS-STEP...
...AND IT WILL ALL COME TO NOTHING.
I WANT OPTIMUS PRIME. I WANT WHAT HE CARRIES...
...WITHIN.
SOON, LORD MEGATRON. SOON...

"...RAVAGE HAS THE SCENT!"

THIS PLACE... I HAD NO IDEA, NO CONCEPTION, IACON, THE SURFACE WAR, DOWN HERE...

...IT ALL SEEMS VERY DISTANT!

W-WHAT?!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

YOU ARE A PART OF SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN YOU REALIZE, OPTIMUS PRIME.

I THINK...

...THAT FALL DID MORE DAMAGE THAN I REALIZED.

HERE, WITHIN CYBERTRON, WE HAVE A VOICE. ASK YOURSELF, WHY DID YOU COME DOWN HERE? ALONE?

WELL, I... DID NOT WISH TO SEND ANY MORE AUTOBOTS TO THEIR DEATH. THE EXPLOSION, MEGATRON, I...

YOU CAME BECAUSE WITHIN YOU THERE IS A NEED, TO UNDERSTAND, TO GRASP THE MEANING, AND IMPORT OF THIS WORLD BEFORE YOU GIVE IT UP.

WE ARE YOU. WE ARE THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE, SEEKING THE SAME ANSWERS.

SO... I'M TALKING TO MYSELF, RIGHT?

IF YOU REALLY ARE THIS KIND OF INNER VOICE, DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OF WISDOM?

JUST TWO...

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HUB CAPITAL, IACON:

THE BORDER REIGNS:

NO MERCY, NO QUARTER. ERADICATE THEM **ALL.**

I, **SHOCKWAVE,** CLAIM IACON IN THE NAME OF MEGATRON AND THE DECEPTICONS!

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IACON, THE HIGH COUNCIL PAVILLONS:
BORDER DEFENSES ARE BEING OVERRUN. THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM ALL SIDES.
THE DECAGON:
I HEAR YOU, TRACKS. ALL UNIT COMMANDERS, FALL BACK TO SUB-PERIMETER SIX, AND PREPARE TO DETONATE MINES ON MY SIGNAL.
POSITIVE I.D. ON YOUR PURSUER, POWERGLIDE. TARGET HIS LATERAL FUEL LINE. PLATING IS WEAKEST THERE.
RE-ROUTE GRID SEVENTY-SIX. I WANT THAT ENERGY WEB AT MAXIMUM OUTPUT.
PREPARE TO RAISE TURRETS NINETEEN-BRAVO THROUGH FORTY-FIVE ECHO.
IS IT ME, OR IS THIS A REALLY STUPID MOVE ON THE PART OF THE DECEPTICONS?
I MEAN, WHY CONCENTRATE THE ATTACK HERE, WHERE WE'RE AT OUR STRONGEST?
WHAT? THEN RUN A BYPASS.
IT IS STRANGE, JAZZ. AND A LITTLE TOO COINCIDENTAL FOR MY LIKING. FIRST THE DISASTER AT THE FORUM OF ENLIGHTENMENT, THEN PRIME GOES OFF ON HIS OWN.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING IT'S ALL CONNECTED!

BELOW·

HN-AH!

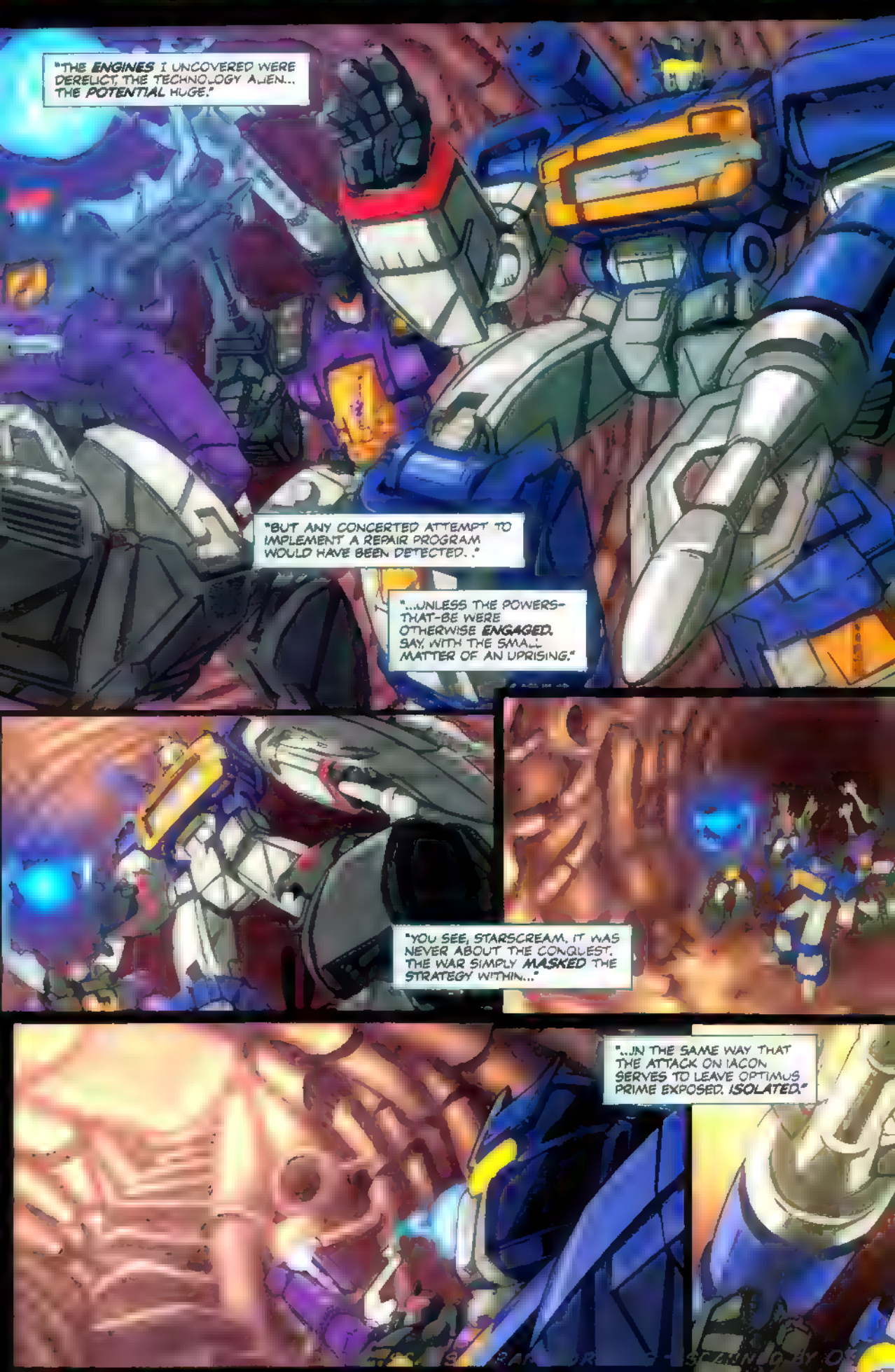
-AAAA!

GHM-

GONE--

--UNTIL HIS **FRIENDS** GET HERE AT LEAST.

ABOVE:
MEGATRON... WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU UP TO?
FIRST, YOU SEND ME OUT ON SOME POINTLESS MISSION, THEN I COME BACK TO FIND WE'RE TRYING TO TAKE IACON.
WHICH, BY THE WAY, WE DECIDED A WHILE BACK WAS A TACTICAL NO-NO.
CALL ME PARANOID, BUT I KINDA GET THE IMPRESSION YOU'RE CUTTING ME OUT OF THE LOOP HERE.
LONG AGO, BEFORE ALL THIS.. I SAW ANOTHER SIDE TO CYBERTRON.
...THOUGH ITS ORIGINS ARE LOST IN THE PAST, CLEARLY THIS PLANET WAS ONCE MOBILE: A LIVING STARSHIP.


"THE ENGINES I UNCOVERED WERE DERELICT, THE TECHNOLOGY ALIEN... THE POTENTIAL HUGE."
"BUT ANY CONCERTED ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT A REPAIR PROGRAM WOULD HAVE BEEN DETECTED..."
"...UNLESS THE POWERS-THAT-BE WERE OTHERWISE ENGAGED. SAY, WITH THE SMALL MATTER OF AN UPRISING."
"YOU SEE, STARSCREAM, IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE CONQUEST. THE WAR SIMPLY MASKED THE STRATEGY WITHIN..."
"...IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE ATTACK ON IACON SERVES TO LEAVE OPTIMUS PRIME EXPOSED. ISOLATED."

"AND WHILE THE WAR RAGED AND THE ENGINES, WERE RE-TOOLED, A MECHAFORMING SUB-STRUCTURE WAS INTRODUCED."
"UNTIL, ULTIMATELY, CYBERTRON ITSELF WILL TRANSFORM... INTO A WAR WORLD."
"ONLY ONE ELEMENT REMAINS TO BE ACQUIRED, AN ENERGY SOURCE POTENT ENOUGH TO POWER THIS COSMIC DREADNAUT."
THE MATRIX.
THE .. MATRIX.
A-HA- HA-HA.
HH . AH-HA-HA-HA.

IT'S A CEREMONIAL BAUBLE. A ZEALOUS LIGHTSHOW FOR THE FAITHFUL MASSES.
THERE IS NO POWER SOURCE-- YOU'RE CHASING SHADOWS.
THIS IS YOUR GREAT PLAN, YOUR GRAND STRATEGY? YOU'VE BEEN CONNED. DELUDED.
STARSCREAM.

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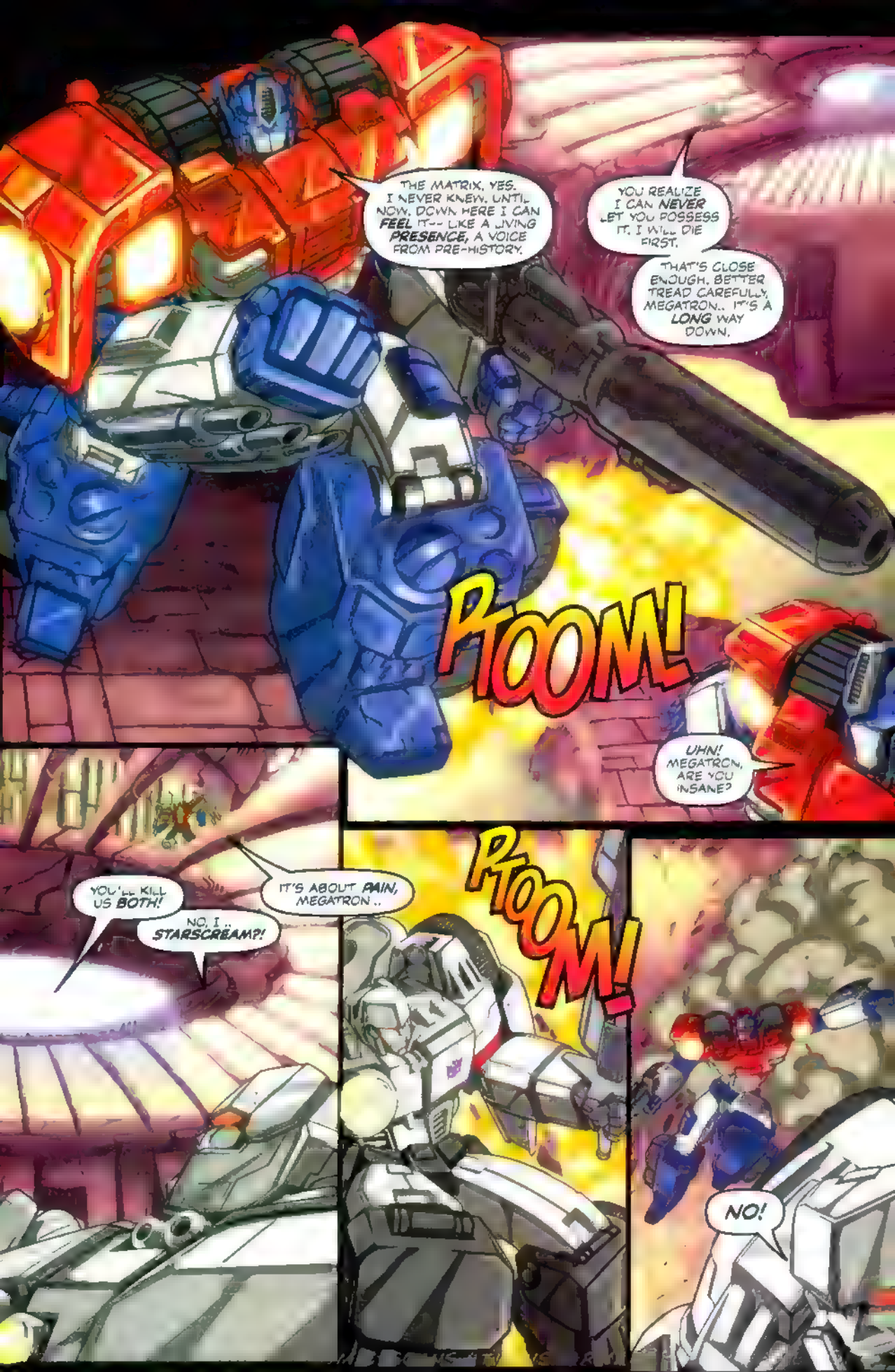
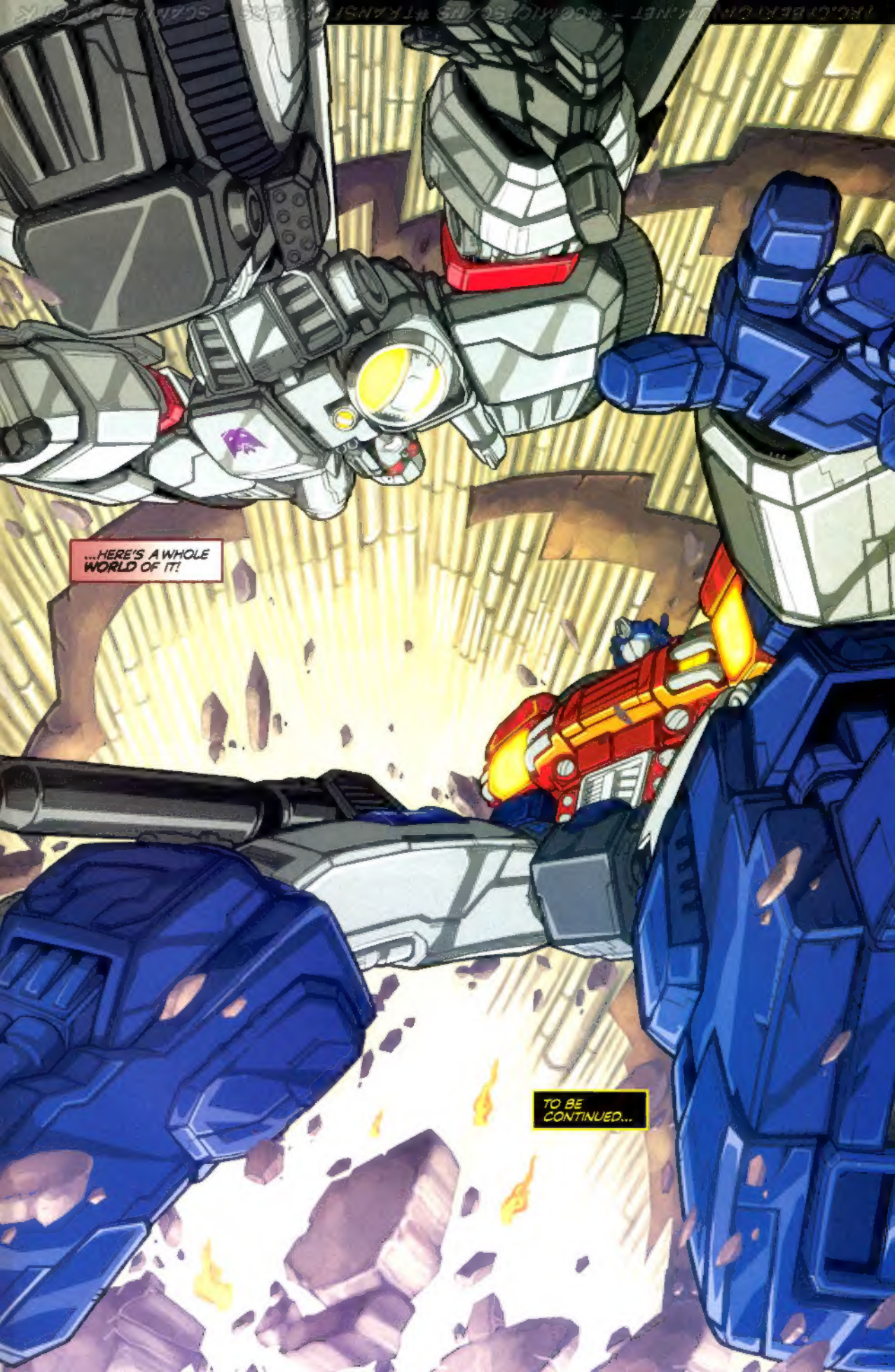
...NEVER QUESTION ME!
THANGG!
HTTK!
THE MATRIX IS MORE THAN YOU REALIZE. FAR MORE.

LORD MEGATRON, THE PRIME--
EH? SOUNDWAVE..
UHTT!
MEGATRON-- IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME..
SAY IT IN PERSON- CRZZZK!
OH DEAR. THINGS ARE NOT GOING QUITE TO PLAN.
DO NOT TEST ME, STARSCREAM.
I MAY NOT BE SO BENEVOLENT NEXT TIME.

ORBITAL TORUS STATE, URAYA:
GRIMLOCK, YOU COPY? THIS IS PROWL, AT COMMAND ONE.
COPY. INBOUND TO ACON, E.T.A. THREE--
NEGATIVE. REPEAT. NEGATIVE. STAY AWAY, GRIMLOCK. I'VE GIVEN A BLANKET CEASE AND DESIST ORDER TO ALL OUTLYING FORCES.
WHAT?
YOU UNDER SIEGE? NEED REINFORCEMENTS?
NEGATIVE. THE DECEPTICONS HAVE MADE A TACTICAL ERROR. THEIR FIRST BY CONCENTRATING THE ATTACK HERE. THEY'VE GIVEN US A CHANCE TO REGROUP AND CONSOLIDATE ELSEWHERE.
AS FOR YOU, GRIMLOCK, I'VE GOT A SPECIAL MISSION FOR YOU AND THAT LITTLE GROUP OF YOURS.
.. AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT!

BELOW:
THIS PLACE . IS A LABYRINTH. TUNNELS WITHIN TUNNELS. CLOAKED ACCESSWAYS DEPTHS NOT PLUMBED.
AND YET I SEEM ABLE TO NAVIGATE WITH UNCANNY EASE. A KIND OF PRIMAL AWARENESS, PERHAPS..
YOU TOO! I'M GUESSING NOW WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS...
...MEGATRON?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT


THE MATRIX. YES. I NEVER KNEW. UNTIL NOW. DOWN HERE I CAN FEEL IT-- LIKE A LIVING PRESENCE, A VOICE FROM PRE-HISTORY.
YOU REALIZE I CAN NEVER LET YOU POSSESS IT. I WILL DIE FIRST.
THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH. BETTER TREAD CAREFULLY, MEGATRON.. IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN.
PTOOM!
UHN! MEGATRON, ARE YOU INSANE?
YOU'LL KILL US BOTH!
IT'S ABOUT PAIN, MEGATRON ..
NO, I .. STARSCREAM?!
PTOOM!
NO!


...HERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OF IT!
TO BE CONTINUED...

(TOP) **THE WAR WITHIN # 1 COVER POSTER**

Before ARMADA... before the BEAST WARS... before even GENERATION 1... there was THE WAR WITHIN. The spectacular pencils by series artist Don Figueroa are only enhanced by the digital painting of colorist Alan Wang in this posterized version of the War Within #1 wrap-around cover. Join the battle, as a new TRANSFORMERS history is forged!

(LEFT) **ARMADA # 8 COVER POSTER**

Fans of evil, be on the lookout for this ominous new TRANSFORMERS: Armada poster! Featured this time is MEGATRON, leader of the DECEPTICONS, as he contemplates the power of the ultimate MINI-CON weapon: the STAR SABER! Penciled by Pat Lee, inked by Rob Armstrong, and colored by Gary Yeung!

FEBRUARY 2002

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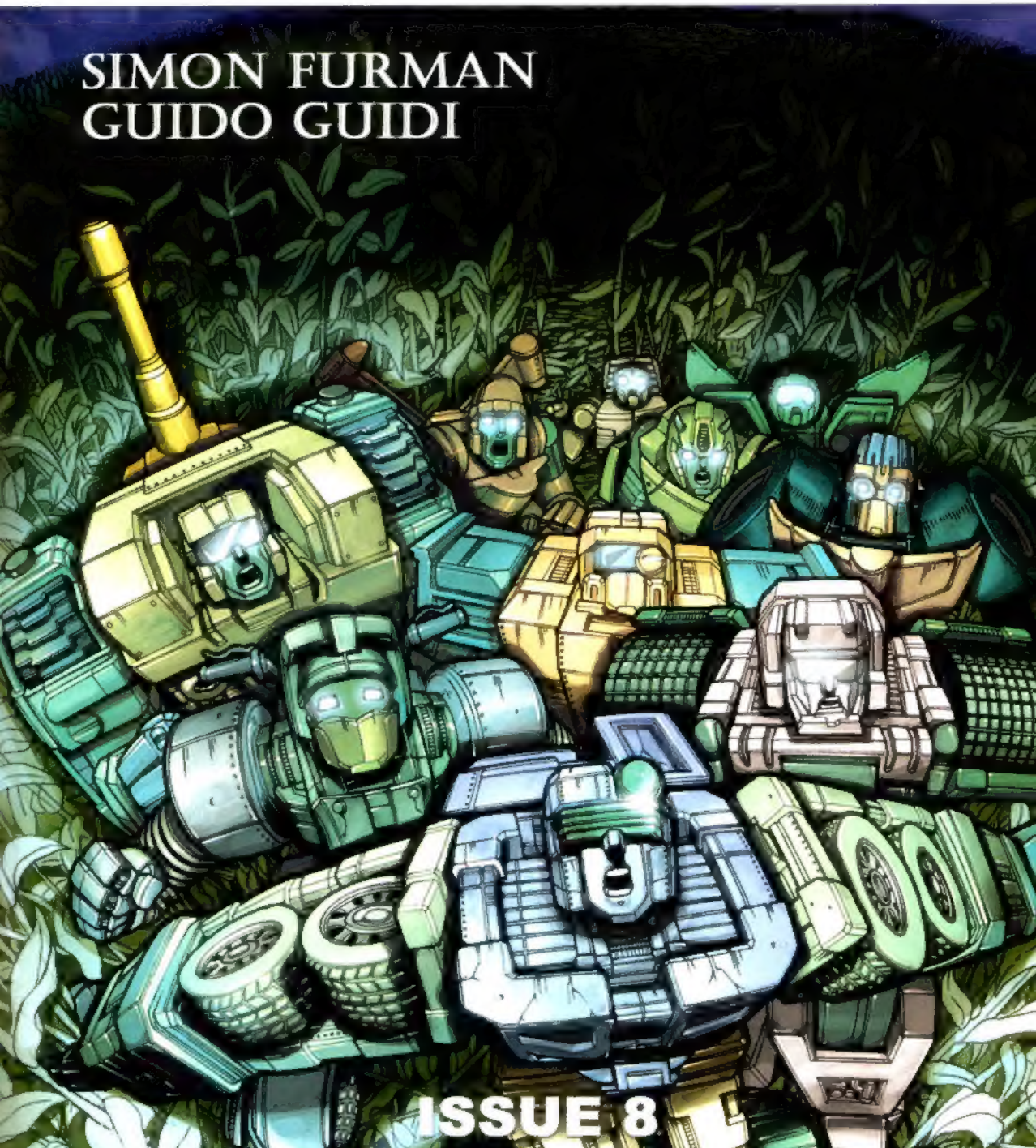
Writer **Simon Furman** (now ongoing writer for Armada) and hot new talent **Guido Guidi** kick off a whole new Armada story arc! Everything changes for the Earthbound MINI-CONS when a mysterious object makes planet-fall. Its siren call is answered by across the world, a summoning that draws the MINI-CONS to a fateful rendezvous. But does the gathering spell the end of the AUTOBOT/DECEPTICON war... or simply the beginning of a terrifying new ordeal?

SIMON FURMAN
GUIDO GUIDI



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